

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A transparent pane having first and second generally-opposed major surfaces, the transparent pane being sized and shaped to be mounted in a frame configured to receive at least one edge of the pane, the transparent pane having a protective covering disposed over a major portion of said first surface, the protective covering comprising a plurality of strips of masking material.

2. The transparent pane of claim 1 wherein the masking material is transparent.

3. The transparent pane of claim 1 wherein said strips of masking material are disposed in a sequentially overlapping fashion with each subsequent strip overlapping a portion of a preceding strip.

4. The transparent pane of claim 3 wherein said strips of masking material extend substantially in parallel across the first surface of the pane.

5. The transparent pane of claim 1 wherein said protective covering is disposed over substantially the entire first surface of the pane.

6. The transparent pane of claim 5 wherein the first surface of the pane has an unmasked apron between an outer periphery of said protective covering and an outer periphery of the pane.

7. The transparent pane of claim 6 wherein the first surface of the pane is entirely masked other than its unmasked peripheral apron.

8. The transparent pane of claim 1 wherein said protective covering is sized, shaped, and positioned such that at least one peripheral side portion of the protective covering extends significantly beneath a confronting surface of the frame when the pane is mounted.

9. The transparent pane of claim 8 wherein said peripheral side portion of the protective covering does not extend so far beneath said confronting surface of the frame as to engage glazing compound between the frame and the pane.

10. The transparent pane of claim 1 wherein said protective covering is sized, shaped, and positioned such that all peripheral side portions of the protective covering extend significantly beneath confronting surfaces of the frame when the pane is mounted.

11. The transparent pane of claim 10 wherein said peripheral side portions of the protective covering do not extend so far beneath said confronting surfaces of the frame as to engage glazing compound between the frame and the pane.

12.. The transparent pane of claim 1 wherein the pane is part of a multiple-pane insulating glass unit.

13. A transparent pane having first and second generally-opposed major surfaces, the transparent pane being sized and shaped to be mounted in a frame configured to receive at least one edge of the pane, the transparent pane having a protective covering disposed over an oversized masked portion of said first surface, the protective covering comprising at least one piece of masking material, the oversized masked portion of the first surface having a lesser area than the first surface itself but having a greater area than an exposed central portion of the first surface that is left uncovered by the frame when the pane is mounted.

14. The transparent pane of claim 13 wherein the oversized masked portion of the first surface has a significantly greater area than said exposed central portion of the first surface.

15. The transparent pane of claim 13 wherein the protective covering consists of a single sheet of masking material.

16. The transparent pane of claim 13 wherein the protective covering comprises a plurality of strips of masking material.

17. The transparent pane of claim 13 wherein said protective covering is sized, shaped, and positioned such that at least one peripheral side portion of the protective covering extends significantly beneath a confronting surface of the frame when the pane is mounted.

18. The transparent pane of claim 13 wherein said protective covering is sized, shaped, and positioned such that at least one peripheral side portion of the protective covering extends a predetermined distance beneath a confronting surface of the frame when the pane is mounted.

19. The transparent pane of claim 18 wherein said predetermined distance is at least about 1/16 inch.

20. The transparent pane of claim 19 wherein said predetermined distance is about 1/8 inch.

21. The transparent pane of claim 17 wherein said peripheral side portion of the protective covering does not extend so far beneath said confronting surface of the frame as to engage glazing compound between the frame and the pane.

22. The transparent pane of claim 13 wherein said protective covering is sized, shaped, and positioned such that all peripheral side portions of the protective covering extend significantly beneath confronting surfaces of the frame when the pane is mounted.

23. The transparent pane of claim 13 wherein said protective covering is sized, shaped, and positioned such that all peripheral side portions of the protective covering extend a predetermined distance beneath confronting surfaces of the frame when the pane is mounted.

24. The transparent pane of claim 23 wherein said predetermined distance is at least about 1/16 inch.

25. The transparent pane of claim 24 wherein said predetermined distance is about 1/8 inch.

26. The transparent pane of claim 22 wherein said peripheral side portions of the protective covering do not extend so far beneath said confronting surfaces of the frame as to engage glazing compound between the frame and the pane.

27. The transparent pane of claim 13 wherein the first surface of the pane has an unmasked apron between an outer periphery of said protective covering and an outer periphery of the pane.

28. The transparent pane of claim 27 wherein the first surface of the pane is entirely masked other than its unmasked peripheral apron.

29. The transparent pane of claim 27 wherein the first surface of the pane has a polygonal shape with three or more sides and the unmasked apron extends along at least one side of said first surface.

30. The transparent pane of claim 29 wherein the unmasked apron extends along all sides of said first surface such that a complete periphery of said first surface is unmasked.

31. The transparent pane of claim 30 wherein the unmasked apron has a width along all sides of said first surface that is significantly less than an overlap distance by which confronting surfaces of the frame extend over said first surface when the pane is mounted, such that all peripheral edges of the protective covering are concealed beneath the frame.

32. The transparent pane of claim 31 wherein said peripheral edges of the protective covering are concealed beneath the frame but do not engage glazing compound between the frame and the pane.

33. The transparent pane of claim 13 wherein the pane is part of a multiple-pane insulating glass unit.

34. A transparent pane having first and second generally-opposed major surfaces, the transparent pane being mounted to a frame in which at least one edge of the pane is received, the transparent pane having a protective covering disposed over a masked portion of said first surface, said first surface having an unmasked apron extending between an outer periphery of the protective covering and an outer periphery of the pane, the protective covering comprising at least one piece of masking material and being sized, shaped, and positioned such that at least one peripheral side portion of the protective covering extends significantly beneath a confronting surface of the frame.

35. The transparent pane of claim 34 wherein said peripheral side portion extends a predetermined distance beneath said confronting surface of the frame.

36. The transparent pane of claim 35 wherein said predetermined distance is at least about 1/16 inch.

37. The transparent pane of claim 36 wherein said predetermined distance is about 1/8 inch.

38. The transparent pane of claim 34 wherein said peripheral side portion does not extend so far beneath said confronting surface of the frame as to engage glazing compound between the frame and the pane.

39. The transparent pane of claim 34 wherein the pane is mounted such that all edges of the pane are received in the frame.

40. The transparent pane of claim 39 wherein said protective covering is sized, shaped, and positioned such that all peripheral side portions of the protective covering extend significantly beneath confronting surfaces of the frame.

41. The transparent pane of claim 40 wherein said peripheral side portions extend a predetermined distance beneath said confronting surfaces of the frame.

42. The transparent pane of claim 41 wherein said predetermined distance is at least about 1/16 inch.

43. The transparent pane of claim 42 wherein said predetermined distance is about 1/8 inch.

44. The transparent pane of claim 34 wherein said peripheral side portions do not extend so far beneath said confronting surfaces of the frame as to engage glazing compound between the frame and the pane.

45. The transparent pane of claim 34 wherein the protective covering consists of a single sheet of masking material.

46. The transparent pane of claim 34 wherein the protective covering comprises a plurality of strips of masking material.

47. The transparent pane of claim 34 wherein the pane is part of a multiple-pane insulating glass unit.

48. A glazing assembly comprising a transparent pane and a frame to which the pane is mounted, the transparent pane having first and second generally-opposed major surfaces and at least one edge received in the frame, the transparent pane having a protective covering disposed

over a portion of said first surface, said first surface having an unmasked apron extending between an outer periphery of the protective covering and an outer periphery of the pane, the protective covering comprising at least one piece of masking material and being sized, shaped, and positioned such that at least one peripheral side portion of the protective covering extends significantly beneath a confronting surface of the frame.

49. The glazing assembly of claim 48 wherein the pane is mounted such that all edges of the pane are received in the frame.

50. The glazing assembly of claim 49 wherein said protective covering is sized, shaped, and positioned such that all peripheral side portions of the protective covering extend significantly beneath confronting surfaces of the frame.

51. The glazing assembly of claim 50 wherein said peripheral side portions extend a predetermined distance beneath said confronting surfaces of the frame.

52. The glazing assembly of claim 50 further comprising glazing compound between the frame and the pane, wherein said peripheral side portions of the protective covering do not extend so far beneath said confronting surfaces of the frame as to engage said glazing compound.

53. The glazing assembly of claim 48 wherein the protective covering consists of a single sheet of masking material.

54. The glazing assembly of claim 48 wherein the protective covering comprises a plurality of strips of masking material.

55. The glazing assembly of claim 48 wherein the pane is part of a multiple-pane insulating glass unit.